

**To:** Allen, Laura[Allen.Laura@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Reynolds, Thomas[Reynolds.Thomas@epa.gov]  
**From:** StClair, Christie  
**Sent:** Thur 9/10/2015 9:59:56 PM  
**Subject:** Fw: CLOSED - ABQ Journal

Laura, reporter is asking if he can use a name - ok to attribute to you?

EOC PIO

202-250-8956

202-250-8957

202-250-8959

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**From:** StClair, Christie  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 10, 2015 5:52 PM  
**To:** Gray, David; Grantham, Nancy; Germann, Sandy; Hull, George; Allen, Laura; Harrison, Melissa; Reynolds, Thomas; EOC Public Information  
**Subject:** CLOSED - ABQ Journal

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**From:** StClair, Christie  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 10, 2015 5:50 PM  
**To:** Michael Coleman  
**Subject:** Re: House hearing follow-up

Michael, please attribute to an EPA spokesperson:

The agency's Internal Review did not make a finding of what caused the release. That was made clear by Mr. Stanislaus when he appeared before the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee on Sept. 9, 2015. As Mr. Stanislaus has said, we are awaiting the results of the independent investigation from the U.S. Department of the Interior and the EPA Inspector General before determining the cause of the release.

Agency staff in our Region 8 office have had several discussions with Mr. Hennis's legal counsel since Aug. 5.

Thanks,

Christie

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**From:** Michael Coleman <mcoleman@abqjournal.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 10, 2015 3:43 PM

**To:** StClair, Christie

**Subject:** Re: House hearing follow-up

Hi Christie:

Thanks for the link. A couple things: can you or anyone at EPA provide me with a comment about the cave-in issue? Do you want to clarify that Stanislaus wasn't blaming the cave-in for the spill? I think it's fairly clear from my story that he didn't, but wanted to let you clarify it for my readers if you wish. Some kind of comment on Hennis' allegation that this is misinformation from the EPA?

Also, he told me the only people at EPA he's been able to talk to are workers at the site. That "all attempts to talk to anyone up the chain-of-command have been rebuffed." Is that true and do you know if it's standard operating procedure?

Could you get me something by 5:30 or so?

Thanks,

Mike

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**From:** "stclair christie" <StClair.Christie@epa.gov>

**To:** "Michael Coleman" <mcoleman@abqjournal.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 10, 2015 1:48:26 PM

**Subject:** Re: House hearing follow-up

Sure thing - <http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine/epa-releases-internal-report-gold-king-mine-response>

There is also a ton of great stuff under the "Gold King Mine Documents" section of the site, too. <http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine/epa-posts-gold-king-mine-file-documents>

Christie

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**From:** Michael Coleman <mcoleman@abqjournal.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 10, 2015 1:38 PM  
**To:** StClair, Christie  
**Subject:** Re: House hearing follow-up

Thanks for the reply - and for the compliment. I try. What can I say - I'm kind of old school and can spot congressional grandstanding a mile away.

But I'm actually pretty new to in-depth coverage of this story as our NM reporters have covered it up until now and I was out of the office a lot of August. Do you happen to have a link to the investigation you reference -- or do I need to go find it?

Thanks,

Mike

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**From:** "stclair christie" <StClair.Christie@epa.gov>  
**To:** "Michael Coleman" <mcoleman@abqjournal.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 10, 2015 1:32:50 PM  
**Subject:** Re: House hearing follow-up

Hi Michael,

Yes, I absolutely need you to go through official channels for anything related to Gold King Mine. All of my records are on a litigation hold and have been FOIA'd, and I can't use personal accounts for any government work anyway.

I was actually meaning to reach out to you today as well, I thought your article on the hearing was a really good example of journalism - rather than latching onto the most sensational quotes, you covered the hearing in a balanced, 360-degree way.

Having said that, first I'll point you to some initial information that may help. Please attribute to US EPA.

Page 7 of the internal investigation mentions a mine cave-in as a possible scenario that could have contributed to blockage that reduced water flows, thus causing water to back-up in the mine.

You should also review page 5 of the investigation, which mentions the rock giving way above the adit appeared to result in a spurt of water to flow from the mine.

And I do want to clarify Mathy did not say that a cave in "caused" the release. Our internal review did not make a finding of what "caused" the release.

Please take a look at all this and then let me know what you need - and what your deadline is.

Thanks, Michael!

Christie

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**From:** Michael Coleman <mcoleman@abqjournal.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 10, 2015 1:11 PM  
**To:** StClair, Christie  
**Subject:** House hearing follow-up

Hi Christie: I just sent this message to your Facebook mail and then thought I should go through official channels.

I didn't realize you were at the hearing yesterday or I would have said hello. It was interesting and I thought the Democrats and Stanislaus did a pretty good job of putting the spill in perspective.

Having said that, I saw this Colorado Watchdog piece and talked to the mine owner myself today who reiterated the same notion -- that the testimony was incorrect on this particular count -- about the cave-in...

[http://watchdog.org/237424/epa-hearing/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=watchdognewsletter](http://watchdog.org/237424/epa-hearing/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=watchdognewsletter) 37

Can you talk to me about it or point me in the direction of a response? Thank you and I hope you are doing well. I'm with the Albuquerque Journal, just for the record, in case you forgot or were unaware.

Mike Coleman